



ARRIVAL: Abdullah, accompanied by Marzuki, walking out of the airplane after arriving at Haneda International Airport in Japan yesterday. — Bernamapic

PM to share views at international forum

By WONG SAI WAN in TOKYO

REGIONAL leaders and think-tank experts will get to hear Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi's views on the concept and prospects for an Asian community on Thursday.

The Prime Minister, who arrived here yesterday from Egypt, where he attended the World Economic Forum, is the keynote speaker at the 12th Nikkei International Conference.

According to Malaysian Ambassador to Japan Datuk Marzuki Mohammed Noor, this is

the third time Abdullah had been invited to the conference to give the main speech and set the tone for the discussions.

"The Nikkei Conference is a well-respected international forum for the region. This is the 12th consecutive year that the Malaysian head of government has been given the honour to be the keynote speaker," Marzuki told the Malaysian media here to cover Abdullah's seven-day visit to Japan.

Also taking part in the conference are regional leaders Singapore Minister Mentor Lee Kuan Yew and Indonesian Vice-

President Muhammad Jusuf Kalla as well as former Malaysian prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Abdullah will also give a key speech at the United Nations University here on Friday as part of the U Thant Lecture series. He will speak on Islam Hadhari (Civilisational Islam).

This is Abdullah's fourth working visit to Japan.

Today, Abdullah will have an audience with Japan's Emperor Akihito, his first since becoming prime minister; and, tomorrow, meet his Japanese counterpart Junichiro Koizumi.

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